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Approved For Release 2005/04/12 : CIA-RDP78S02149R000200030015-0

Report on Damage to Railroad and Highway Bridges in North Vietnam

The U. S. and South Vietnamese air strikes against major North Vietnamese railroad and highway targets have achieved the objective of making it more difficult and costly for the DRV to support military operations in South Vietnam and Laos but have not reduced the capacities below the level required for its support of operations at current combat rates.

In analyzing the time intervals of the interdictions, there are two general points which render it difficult to draw valid conclusions. First and most important is the fact that recuperative action is taken by the DRV according to need for the LOC facility and delays in restoration do not necessarily indicate lack of capability to restore service. For example, several bridges that were destroyed during the war with the French have not yet been restored. The availability and the construction of suitable alternatives to bypass the interdicted structure also affect the recuperative effort.

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Secondly, it is often difficult to determine the precise length of time that a line remained out of service

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Railroad Damage

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a. Hanoi-Lao Cai Rail Line

[Redacted]

It is estimated that from 11 July to early in December thru traffic on the Lao Cai rail line was not possible. Whereas portions remained open to shuttle traffic and at times approached complete operational status, it is believed that some interdictions remained until early December. The line was reported as probably operational in early December and

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[Redacted] revealed that the line had been restored to allow thru traffic.

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